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SUBJ: ALTHANN/BARBIE

1. NEWLY APPOINTED MININTERIOR ALFREDO ARCE TOLD AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS APRIL 30 THAT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ALTHANN/BARBIE WILL BE EJECTED FROM BOLIVIA. ARCE SAID ALTHANN/BARBIE'S CONTINUED PRESENCE IN BOLIVIA IS AN EMBARRASSMENT, IS DETRIMENTAL TO BOLIVIA'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION, AND A DOMESTIC POLITICAL IRRITANT. IN ADDITION ARCE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL LACK OF SYMPATHY FOR ANYONE WHO HAS A NAZI WAR CRIMINAL. ARCE SAID HE EXPECTED BOLIVIA'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO FIND ALTHANN/BARBIE EXTRADITABLE TO FRANCE, BUT HE SAID IF IT DID NOT ALTHANN/BARBIE WOULD BE SENT TO PERU IN RESPONSE TO PERU'S REQUEST FOR HIM ON CRIMINAL CHARGES. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHAT EFFECT ALTHANN/BARBIE'S BOLIVIAN CITIZENSHIP WOULD HAVE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS EXTRADITION, ARCE SAID THE CITIZENSHIP WAS OBTAINED BY FRAUD AND DISMISSED IT AS A CONSIDERATION.

2. COMMENT: ARCE'S HANDLING ATTITUDE ON THE ALTHANN/BARBIE CASE CONTRASTS FROM THAT OF HIS PREDECESSOR WHO SEVERAL MONTHS AGO EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT ALTHANN/BARBIE WOULD BE EXTRADITED IN VIEW OF HIS BOLIVIAN CITIZENSHIP. SIRACUSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FOR COORDINATION WITH *State*

4/1/73